

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Hotel Accomodations

1.  visitors to China were accomodated in special government guest houses available in all sizable cities. Foreigners, exclusive of those officially sponsored by a ministry, paid their own bills. The guest houses had Chinese and European dining rooms. Members of the Chinese minority groups were permitted to patronize them. Soviet citizens, however, stayed at specific hotels or rented apartments. Although they were permitted freer movement than most foreigners, there was no noticeable distinction between the treatment of representatives of Satellite countries and those from Western European countries.

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Interpreters

2. Foreigners on official missions to China were met at the border by interpreters who accompanied them throughout their stay. Although the interpreters claimed to belong to the ministry that invited the foreign delegate, it seemed likely that they were a part of the security service. They appeared not to utilize normal channels for matters of security.
3. Interpreters usually took the visitor's passport upon arrival at a given city, for foreigners might not leave the city without permission. Each passport was stamped with a visa listing the places to be visited. Upon the visitor's arrival in each locality the passport was stamped. A visitor might not revisit a city without special permission.
4. Interpreters and secretaries recorded all conversations by taking extensive notes.
5. In most cities foreigners were permitted to walk about without the interpreters. In Canton, however, it was noted that when visitors left their hotel, they were followed immediately by a group of young men who had been waiting in the lobby.

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Contacts with Residents of China

6. If the linguistic barrier could be breached, the Chinese did not seem hesitant to speak with foreigners. It was difficult, however, to contact foreign residents of China who were not members of the diplomatic colony. For example, an Italian Communist, who was a member of a commercial firm, waited two weeks before he succeeded in receiving permission to contact foreigners.
7. Foreigners in Shanghai said that until late 1954 they had been afraid to gather socially. They claimed that the situation had eased somewhat since the Geneva conference, although they were convinced that some foreigners were government informers.

Telephone Procedure

8. Since telephone operators at the guest houses spoke only Chinese, interpreters assisted in placing calls. In Shanghai, where English might be used in placing calls, the interpreters listened to the conversation.
9. Peiping telephone directories were distributed on a limited basis and were kept under lock and key. In contrast, telephone books were readily available in Shanghai.

Diplomats

10. There were approximately 35 Western European representatives in China. With the exception of the Soviet staff [redacted] no special privileges appeared to be accorded to the diplomatic staffs. Foreign diplomatic personnel were subject to the same restrictions as other foreigners, with the possible exception of the Russians. All representatives had to obtain written permission before leaving Peiping.
11. There was no social contact between Western European diplomats and Chinese government officials or other Chinese residents, with the possible exception of one elderly couple who frequented all Western functions. Except at large receptions, there was no contact between Eastern and Western representatives.

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Miscellaneous Information

12. The former property of the United States and French Embassies had been converted into office buildings. The former Belgian Embassy had been leased to the Burmese.
13. Chinese officials were not known to have discussed with any of the Western diplomats the possibility of diplomatic relations with the United States.
14. It was almost essential for a diplomat assigned to Peiping to speak Russian in order to study the situation freely, although French and English were frequently spoken.
15. Opinion prevailed in Peiping that Deputy Foreign Minister LEI Jen-min<sup>1</sup> exerted considerable influence in foreign affairs, in the government, and in the party.
16. [redacted] the Chinese people learned more rapidly than the Russian people. Frequently, training programs had been completed considerably in advance of schedule.

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17. The Chinese had sought in vain to purchase aluminum, artificial fertilizers, isotopes, and heavy water

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1. Comment. Presumably LEI Jen-min (7191/0117/3046), Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, is meant.

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